

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01

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O R 131045 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0089

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6279

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: RE- ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE
AND RVN

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY (KY) TOLD US AFTERNOON APRIL 13 THAT A COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE RELEASED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY THE GVN AND GOF WITHIN A FEW HOURS ANNOUNCING RE- ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND RVN AND THE EXCHANGE OF EMBASSIES. ACCORDING TO KY, THE FRENCH HAD ASKED THAT THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE NOW IN PARIS BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN THERE AND FUNCTION AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL. THE FRENCH DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRG WHICH HAS EXISTED FOR SIX YEARS.

2. AS A CONSOLATION PRIZE, THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE WILL BE PERMITTED TO ADOPT SOME NEW NAME, BUT THE FRENCH HAVE ASSURED THE GVN THAT THIS WOULD ENTAIL ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGE IN ITS STATUS. THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE AT PRESENT IS A NON-DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENT WHOSE DEALINGS WITH THE GOF ARE THROUGH THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF THE QUAI.

3. KY DESCRIBED THIS DEVELOPMENT AS A " DIPLOMATIC VICTORY" FOR THE GVN DESPITE HEAVY PRESSURE BY DRV AND PRG ON THE FRENCH,
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THE PRG HAS ACHIEVED NO IMPROVEMENT IN ITS STATUS, AND THE
GVN IS RECOGNIZED AS THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM (ALTHOUGH
NOT EXPLICITLY AS THE " UNIQUE" GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM).
KY POINTED OUT THAT NOW EVERY IMPORTANT NON- COMMUNIST COUNTRY
HAVING AN INTEREST IN INDOCHINA HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
THE GVN.
BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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